

Public health unit checklist

Contact the patient and/or the patient's doctor to:

- Obtain patient's risk exposure history
- Obtain patient's previous syphilis testing and treatment history (this information might be available from a state or regional syphilis register/database)
- Identify likely source of infection
- Confirm onset of symptoms (if any)
- Confirm results of relevant pathology tests
- Ensure that the patient is aware of diagnosis
- Ensure that contact tracing has been commenced.

Contact the laboratory to:

- Check samples received and obtain any outstanding results

Confirm case:

- Assess information against case definition
- Stage syphilis in consultation with specialist advice
- Enter data into jurisdictional infectious disease notification database

Other issues:

Infectious syphilis occurring in a pregnant woman requires a URGENT public health response due to the risk of congenital infection.